

RETZER NATURE CENTER PROGRAMSLog onto www.waukeshacountyparks.com

for detailed information call 262-896-8007

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| November 12 & 15 | Forest Ecology Adult Workshop |
| November 19 | Nature Sprouts (Storytime) |
| November 22 | Basket Workshop Adult Activity |
| December 6 | Retzer's Rangers "Geology – Rocks" |
| December 17 | Nature Sprouts (Storytime) |
| December 27 & 28 | Snowshoe Lacing Workshop
Adult Activity |

Wanted - Intergovernmental Cooperation

by Karen Fiedler, Solid Waste Coordinator

The current tight budget climate has raised public expectations for local governments to cooperate in order to increase efficiency and decrease service costs. DNR recycling grants that encourage intergovernmental cooperation may also help make this happen locally, and are included in the draft 2004 County budget.

Under the budget initiative, the 12 municipalities that are not currently participating in the County recycling program are invited to bring their recyclable materials to the county-owned Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) for processing - at actual costs. Since net costs for recycling at the MRF over the last three years has averaged less than \$6 per ton, this could translate to a significant savings for these communities.

As additional incentive, the new intergovernmental cooperation will be rewarded by DNR Recycling Efficiency Incentive (REI) grants. Any newly participating municipality would retain their "Responsible Unit" status with the DNR, including all associated responsibilities and recycling grants (plus the new REI grant). They would sign a cooperative agreement with the County to bring their recyclables and/or their yard wastes to the County facilities.

The 25 communities currently participating in the County MRF will also benefit from the initiative. Fixed operating costs will be spread out over a larger funding base, reducing the costs for everyone and helping ensure that the current partners continue to receive an annual dividend check from the County - as they have for the past three years. Since actual costs are used for the new communities, the current MRF partners take on no additional risk in the arrangement. REI grants will be used to fund the new County yard waste composting operation in the Town of Genesee allowing free disposal of yard wastes for all municipalities in the county, while the grant funds last.

Municipalities interested in more information about this program can contact Karen Fiedler at 262-896-8014.

**FAMILY OPEN HOUSE**

at the Waukesha County Materials Recycling Facility (MRF)

220 S. Prairie Avenue, Waukesha

Saturday, November 15, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

*Celebrate America Recycles Day*

All ages are welcome to tour the facility and see where your recyclables go after they leave the curb



Register to win a prize



See products made of recycled materials



Check out the Wise Tree of Recycling, the History of trash puzzle and the new Mural

DIRECTIONS: Prairie Ave. runs north/south between West St. Paul and Sunset. The MRF is the 4th building on the right south of the intersection of College Ave. & Prairie, just north of Old Tavern Cheese and across the street from the Saratoga Ball Fields.

Planning And Zoning Division Unveils Zoning Permit Database

by: Sandy Scherer, Senior Planner

In April of this year, after many months of working with Information Systems, the Planning and Zoning Division unveiled a Zoning Permit Database. This database is accessed through the Waukesha County Intranet and will be used internally by the Planning and Zoning Division staff to manage zoning permit applications and to produce permits and other correspondence related to the zoning permit process. The database is also linked to the Register of Deeds Data Warehouse information, which provides the name and address of the property owner, as well as the legal description of the property. When a new application file is created, the information from the Data Warehouse is automatically entered in the Zoning Permit Database by typing in the tax key number of the property. Information from previously issued Zoning Permits will be added into the system when those permits are accessed for research purposes for a new application file. The database also has a search function, a report generation function, and a help section to assist the staff in managing the database. It is the Division's intent to create databases for all of the major planning and zoning functions, which include Conditional Uses, Variances, Zoning Amendments, Violations, Plans of Operation, Subdivisions, and Certified Survey Maps. It is our hope that the creation of these databases will allow us to better serve the public by providing more efficient access to the information currently stored in paper files in our office, as well as lend a cross-reference capability to the information.

